

HAER  
ILL  
50-LASAL  
6-

ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, LASALLE PASSENGER DEPOT  
(Rock Island Railroad, Peru-LaSalle Depot)  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
First Street, east of Creve Coeur Street  
LaSalle  
LaSalle County  
Illinois

HAER No. IL-70

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, LASALLE PASSENGER DEPOT  
(Rock Island Railroad, Peru-LaSalle Depot)  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor

HAER  
ILL  
50-LASALLE,  
6-

HAER No. IL-70

Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
First Street, east of Creve Coeur Street  
LaSalle, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.324150 N.4577020  
Quad: LaSalle

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

Builder: Unknown

Present Use: Commercial/Retail

Significance: The Rock Island Railroad's passenger depot at LaSalle is a fine example of early 1900s railroad architecture.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1985.

ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD,  
LASALLE PASSENGER DEPOT  
HAER No. IL-70  
(Page 2)

Throughout the late-nineteenth century LaSalle-Peru was served by three railroads: the Rock Island, the Illinois Central, and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. The latter carrier maintained a passenger depot in Peru, with LaSalle being the location of depots of the Rock Island and the Illinois Central. About 1900, the Rock Island Railroad replaced its old passenger depot with a new brick and stone building. Situated at the base of a steeply sloping hillside, the depot was used by residents of LaSalle and Peru. (Local residents referred to the steeply sloping road that led down to the station as "Rock Island Hill"). Passenger rail service through Peru-LaSalle was discontinued in the early 1970s, and the LaSalle Passenger Depot was the only station in the Twin Cities to survive. (The depot of the Illinois Central in LaSalle and the depot of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy in Peru have been demolished). The Rock Island Railroad's LaSalle Passenger Depot has been converted into a lawn and garden center.

The passenger depot is a two-and-one-half-story brick building measuring approximately 60' x 25'. The building contains a concrete foundation; common-bond, red-brick and dolomite limestone walls; and a large, hipped roof with hipped roof dormers. A recently built oriel extends along the south facade, and a storage shed extends along the east facade. The first-story windows are rectangular and have been boarded over; they contain limestone sills and lintels. The second-story windows are composed of three lights flanked on either side by one light (this appears to be a recent alteration); they are framed by circular brick arches and limestone lintels. The first floor opens onto the passenger platform which extends along the south facade. The First Street (main) entrance is at the second-floor level.

**SOURCES:**

Sanborn Map Co., LaSalle, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1888, 1892, 1898, 1906, 1911, 1926).

History of LaSalle County, Illinois, v. 2 (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1886): 677-8.